

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

You know our democracy depends on a free and unfettered press, which today means an independent existence for broadcast media.

280 million Americans cannot be informed by 6 giant media companies.

Our democracy must move forcefully and strongly toward a participatory form beginning with these hearings on the rules.

Thank you for your effort in returning to fairness through open public hearings and protection of the public by their government in this rulemaking process.